

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Below are listed the Soviet frontier villages in the Khuda Afarin (N39-09, E46-56) area of the Irano-Soviet Azerbaijan frontier. A brief description accompanies each village name:

1. Qara Idaklu (not located)

Location: Qara Idaklu is located within a distance of 800 meters from the Araxes river. The surrounding countryside is covered with trees and canebrake. There are four villages north of Qara Idaklu by the same name, each with approximately 50 families.

Description: Qara Idaklu is surrounded by a barbed wire obstacle and landmarks 2½ meters high. The electric power is provided by Dash Burun (N37-37, E54-48). The water tower is 20 meters high. The village has a primary school, maternity hospital, dispensary, public depot for foodstuffs and supplies, and a kolkhoz. The town drinking water supply is stream water brought from Qara Daglu.

Industry and Products: Under the supervision of the kolkhoz, canebrakes are cultivated.

Native Speech and Dress: The dialect and clothing of the inhabitants of these villages resemble those of the Iranian Shahsavan tribe.

2. Qara Daglu (not located)

Location: Qara Daglu is located opposite Iranian Mohammad Rezalu.

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Description: This area is largely pasture land, which is used for cattle grazing. There are four villages in the area, each with a population of about 100 families. The village has three frontier watchtowers. Aircraft fly from Qara Daghlú towards Baku.

Railroads: The railroad is about one kilometer north of this region.

3. Irdarlu ((not located))

Location: Irdarlu is located opposite Iranian Pirvatlu. It is composed of three or four ruined villages, each with about 100 families.

4. Dash Burun (or Dasht E Burun) ((not located))

Location: Dash Burun is located opposite Iranian Ali Reza Abad, which is the center of the Shiar company's cotton cultivation. It is possible to reach Dash Burun via fords in the Altan stream.

Description: Dash Burun possesses an electric power house, public school, cattle-breeding institution, maternity hospital, a canal for drinking water, dispensary, and a depot for storage of the cotton crop.

Railroads: Dash Burun is an important railroad junction on the Trans-Caucasian line.

Native Dress: The inhabitants of Dash Burun dress like the Shabsavan tribesmen of the Moghan Steppe in Iran.

5. Gol-Tapeh ((not located))

Location: Gol Tapeh is located opposite Iranian Altan. The border post is located on top of a high hill. It is surrounded by alfalfa fields which supply feed for the army horses in the area.

6. Bahmanlu ((not located))

Location: Bahmanlu is located opposite Iranian Torbat. Water is supplied by the Araxes river.

7. Aslanduz (N39-29, E47-19)

Location: Aslanduz is located near Huradiz.

Description: Aslanduz is a center of cotton cultivation. It also produces wheat, black barley, corn, and other cereals. The village possesses a primary and high school, a kolkhoz, and stores for drygoods and foodstuffs. There is a large cemetery in Aslanduz, called Moharram. The airfield, which is one kilometer in length and width, has hangars for spraying and dusting planes, and a powerful searchlight which is used for night reconnaissance purposes along the Moghan frontier.

Native Speech and Dress: The dialect of the inhabitants is Azerbaydzhan Turki and almost identical to that used in the Moghan Steppe area. Their customs and clothing resemble the inhabitants of Iranian Aslanduz.

8. Mehdilu ((not located))

Location: Mehdilu is approximately 800 meters from the Araxes river.

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Description: Mehdilu is in a wooded area watered by numerous irrigation canals. It is a winter pasture area for domestic animals.

Products: The area produces a large amount of sesame crop.

9. Chakherlu (not located)

Description: Chakherlu resembles Mehdilu in most respects.

10. Maralian (N39-20,E47-12)

Maralian has an airfield, a kolkhoz, a seed distribution center for farmers, and a silo. There is a road leading to Jabrayil village.

11. Shakur Baglu (N39-18,E47-07)

Location: Shakur Baglu is located opposite Larijan, and approximately one kilometer from the Araxes river.

Description: The village has an emergency hospital, a maternity hospital, dispensary, a kolkhoz center, pig pens, cotton storage depot, and army ammunition depot.

Railroads: Shakur Baglu has a railroad repair shop.

12. Ali Keykhanlu (Ali Kevkhalu) (N39-14,E47-03)

The area of Ali Keykhanlu is not suited for cultivation because of excessive amounts of water flowing from the mountains of Jabrayil. The streams flow into the Araxes river, which at this point is dammed by a 12-meter barrier. There are approximately 100 families residing in Ali Keykhanlu. The border post is located 500 meters south of this village. The main products are cereals, wheat, barley, black barley, corn, and millet.

13. Mashanlu and Hasani (N39-12,E37-02)

These villages are watered by irrigation canals recently constructed, allowing 200 Uzbeks to settle here during 1951 to cultivate the land. Prior to the settling of the Uzbeks, the village had been deserted during the past 12 years. The border post is located on top of a hill near Hasani.

14. Khalafu ((not located)

The border post is located on the slope of Varas Dagh mountain, 800 meters from the Araxes river. Approximately 50 families reside near the border post. The winter residence is located north of this mountain, where approximately 100 families, largely animal breeders, reside. Water is raised by means of a pump, which also provides electricity for the station and the border post.(sic).

15. Khuda Afarin (N39-09,E46-56)

Location: The new village of Khuda Afarin is located 30 kilometers north of the border, between two elevations 1500 meters long and 200 meters wide. All of the inhabitants, except 50 families, have been relocated in new Khuda Afarin from old Khuda Afarin. These 50 families remain in the village across the bridge for the purpose of repairing the railroad.

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Description: Old Khuda Afarin has two bridges, one of which is ruined. The passable bridge, which is made of brick, was constructed in the time of Fath Ali Shah. It can be used only by pedestrians. There is an automobile road between Khuda Afarin and Jabrayil.

Products: The inhabitants of Khuda Afarin are for the most part wheat growers and cattle breeders.

Border Post: The assistant to the border commander resides in Khuda Afarin. The guardhouse compound has a dispensary, emergency hospital, railroad workers' institution, ammunition depot, control posts for the railroad, and a flag stop for railroad passengers. The summer guardhouses are elevated, as there are many poisonous snakes found in the area.

16. Qomnagh (not located)

Location: Qomnagh is within 2 kilometers of the Araxes river. Formerly the river flowed very close to Qomnagh, but the Soviets diverted the course of the river by a dam and took possession of the newly created land which formerly belonged to Iran.

Description: There are approximately 500 families residing in Qomnagh. The village possesses a school, hospital, supply stores, and several kolkhoz centers.

Products: Since the area contains excellent grazing land, cattle are raised in great numbers. A dam and irrigation complex has been constructed for the cultivation of rice and cotton.

17. Darzalu (not located)

Location: Darzalu is located opposite Mafruzlu in Iran.

Description: In Darzalu there is a water mill and a clothing store for kolkhoz farmers.

Products: Its chief products are corn, rice, black barley, millet, and sesame. The cultivation of cotton has recently been started.

18. Darilu (not located)

Darilu is located on the left side of Barkebat river. There is a road leading from Darilu towards the interior through the Barkebat valley. There are approximately 1,000 Armenian families residing in Darilu.

19. Havali (N39-09, E46-50)

Location: Havali is located on an elevation near the Araxes river. In 1941 the inhabitants were removed from the area. However, there are now approximately 50 families of railroad guards residing there.

20. Tari (N39-02, E46-46)

Location: Tari is located between Keyvan and Menjevan. To the east of Tari are low foothills, while to the west is the village of Qara Gol Sheykh Azar. The Chay Darreh river flows into the Araxes river at Tari.

Railroads: Tari is the railroad junction for the lines between Manjevan and the Ali Abad valley. The railroad station has a watchtower.

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Products: Tari's chief crops are wheat, barley, millet, corn, and cotton. Fishing and cattle breeding are also important. Opposite Tari is a copper mine, which has a railroad siding connecting it with Menjevan.

Border post: The watchtower of the border post is 60 meters high.

21. Menjevan ((not located))

Menjevan is one kilometer from Tari and has a population of 2,000 families. The village has an electric power house, locomotive repair shops, electric mill, school, hospital, dispensary, kolkhoz center, airport, and small hotel.

22. Bartas ((not located))

Bartas is situated on an elevation. Its inhabitants have been relocated from the original site of Bartas to an area 12 kilometers inland from the frontier. Approximately 1,000 Armenian families reside here.

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